



Information Governance Team

Postal Address:
Coventry City Council
PO Box 15
Council House
Coventry
CV1 5RR

www.coventry.gov.uk

E-mail: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

Phone: 024 7697 5408

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI507059945

Thank you for your request for information relating to age disputes and UASCs.

You have requested the following information:

1. For five years from 2018-2023, from 1 January 2018 or the nearest applicable date, till 1 April 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children have been in the care of your local authority

From the 1 January 2018 to the 31 March 2023 there have been 200 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the care of Coventry City Council.

2. Of the UASCs under your care since 2018, how many have been subject to age disputes? By age disputes, I mean that the age of the claimant and therefore their status as a child is in doubt, and reference must be made to the detailed Assessing age guidance, as per page 32 of this Government guidance

3. Between 1 January 2018 and 1 April 2023, what were the outcomes of the age dispute cases? By outcomes please can you provide the number of UASCs who were found to be under 18, and the number found to be over 18. For those over 18, please can you share what happened to them. For example, did the local authority track them and whether they ended up homeless, returned to their country of origin, or other outcomes?

4. Between 1 January 2018 and 1 April 2023, how many of the age dispute cases were subject to appeal and what was the outcome of each appeal?

For Questions 2 to 4, we hold the information which you have asked for, but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £450 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004). This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or more, in determining whether the information is held, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

We have estimated the time to exceed 18 hours because the information is not held in a reportable format, hence it would require an officer to manually review each record to determine what relevant information is held. At 10 minutes per record, it has been estimated that it would take over 33 hours for an officer to complete. Therefore, this part of your request has been refused under section 12(2) of the Act.

However, in order to fulfil our obligations under Section 16 of the FOI Act to advise and assist you, we advise that we can provide data for the current year. Should you wish to reformulate your request, then please note that this will be treated as a fresh FOI request.

5. Does the local authority keep track of UASCs who following an age dispute case were found to be over-18? Please provide a yes/no response. By keep track I mean does the LA continue to engage with the young person.

No, but they are referred to appropriate post 18 support services.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance